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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/667,499

09/23/2003

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45441

1923

7590

03/17/2006

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EXAMINER

SHAH, MANISH S

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2853

DATE MAILED: 03/17/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/667,499

Applicant(s)

CHOI ET AL.

Examiner

Manish S. Shah

Art Unit

2853

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 February 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

### **DETAILED ACTION**

1. Applicant's request for reconsideration of the finality of the rejection of the last Office action is persuasive and, therefore, the finality of that action is withdrawn.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 7-8 & 10-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Sekiya (# US 2003/0016269 A1).

Sekiya discloses a discharge/heater roller for use with an ink jet printer capable of printing an image on paper, the discharge/heater roller including a heat-conductive cylindrical portion (element: 88, figure: 1), a roller rubber covering the cylindrical portion and generating a friction force to discharge the paper from the printer ([0117]), and a heat-generator disposed on an inner surface of the cylindrical portion in an axial direction ([0116]), wherein the discharge/heater roller is disposed close to print head of the printer (element: 88, figure: 9). They also disclose that the heat generator includes a

heater coil formed of nichrome wire ([0016]), and wherein the roller rubber is formed of material, which is heat resistant with respect to a predetermined temperature transmitted from the heat generator ([0117]).

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-3 & 5-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) in view of Sekiya (# US 2003/0016269) and Jacob (# US 2002/0130939).

AAPA discloses an ink jet printer including a print head forming an image by spraying ink from a nozzle towards a paper (element: 6, figure: 1-2); a transfer unit for transferring the paper towards the print head (figure: 1-2); a discharge/heater roller being in contact with a side of the paper opposite to a side with image formed thereon by the print head for drying ink, and for discharging the paper; wherein the discharge /heater roller includes a heat conductive cylinder portion; a heat generator disposed on an inner surface of the cylinder portion in an axial direction (element: 8, figure: 2). They also disclose that the discharge/heater roller is disposed close to the print head (figure: 2).

AAPA differs from the claim of the present invention is that the (1) one or more supporting rolls located above the discharge/heater roller for discharging paper together with the discharge/heater roller, wherein supporting roller including a star wheel for minimizing a spread of ink of the image on the paper. (2) The discharge/heater roller includes a roller rubber covering the cylindrical portion and generating a friction force during the discharging paper portion, wherein the cylindrical portion is formed of aluminum, and wherein the roller rubber is formed of material, which is heat resistant with respect to a predetermined temperature transmitted from the heat generator.

Jacob teaches that to get the printed image without damaging the quality of printed image, which could be graphics, text or combination, inkjet printer includes one or more supporting rolls (element: 30, figure: 1) located above the discharge roller (element: 32, figure: 1) for discharging paper together with the discharge roller, wherein supporting roller including a star wheel for minimizing a spread of ink of the image on the paper (element: 30, figure: 1, [0022]-[0024]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the inkjet printer of AAPA by the aforementioned teaching of Jacob in order to get the printed image without damaging the quality of printed image, which could be graphics, text or combination.

Sekiya teaches that to remove the moisture and feed and discharge the sheet smoothly, the heater roller includes a roller rubber (elastic, silicone rubber) (element: 88, figure: 9) covering the cylindrical portion (element: 88, figure: 9) and generating a friction force during the discharging paper portion ([0114]-[0118]), wherein the heat

generator includes a heater coil formed of nichrome wire ([0016]), and wherein the roller rubber is formed of material, which is heat resistant with respect to a predetermined temperature transmitted from the heat generator ([0117]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the discharge roller (element: 8; figure: 2) of inkjet printer of AAPA with the coating of rubber, which was taught by Sekiya in order to remove the printed sheet smoothly from the inkjet printer, which gives the high quality printed image.

4. Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) in view of Muranaka (# US 6004052).

AAPA discloses all the limitation of the ink jet printer except that the cylindrical portion is formed of aluminum.

Muranaka teaches that to remove the moisture and feed and discharge the sheet smoothly, the heater roller includes a roller rubber (elastic, silicone rubber) (element: 12, figure: 2, 5) covering the cylindrical portion (element: 11, 26, figure: 2, 5) and generating a friction force during the discharging paper portion (column: 4, line: 18-25), wherein the cylindrical portion is formed of aluminum (column: 4, line: 10-15).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the discharge roller (element: 8; figure: 2) of inkjet printer of AAPA by the aforementioned teaching of Muranaka in order to remove the printed sheet smoothly from the inkjet printer, which gives the high quality printed image.

5. Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sekiya (# US 2003/0016269 A1) in view of Muranaka (# US 6004052).

Sekiya discloses all the limitation of a discharge/heater roller for use with an ink jet printer capable of printing an image on paper, the discharge/heater roller except that the cylindrical portion is formed of aluminum.

Muranaka teaches that to remove the moisture and feed and discharge the sheet smoothly, the heater roller includes a roller rubber (elastic, silicone rubber) (element: 12, figure: 2, 5) covering the cylindrical portion (element: 11, 26, figure: 2, 5) and generating a friction force during the discharging paper portion (column: 4, line: 18-25), wherein the cylindrical portion is formed of aluminum (column: 4, line: 10-15).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the discharge roller of inkjet printer of Sekiya by the aforementioned teaching of Muranaka in order to remove the printed sheet smoothly from the inkjet printer, which gives the high quality printed image.

### ***Response to Arguments***


6. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-11 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

**Conclusion**

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Manish S. Shah whose telephone number is (571) 272-2152. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00am-4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stephen D. Meier can be reached on (571) 272-2149. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

  
Manish S. Shah  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 2853

MSS

3/15/06